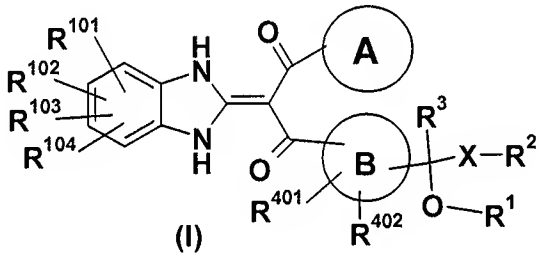
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(I)

(I)

[symbols in the formula mean as follows,

ring A: benzene which may be substituted, pyridine which may be substituted or thiophene ring,

ring B: benzene or thiophene ring,

R^1: H or –CO-lower alkyl,

R^2: H, -O-R^5, -N(R^6)R^7, -N_3, -S(O)$_m$-lower alkyl ~~-S(O)$_\square$-lower alkyl~~, -S(O)$_m$-N(R^6)R^7 ~~-S(O)$_\square$-N(R^6)R^7~~, halogen, pyridyl or imidazolyl which may be substituted,

R^5: H, lower alkyl, -CO-lower alkyl which may be substituted, or -CO-O-lower alkyl which may be substituted,

R^6 and R^7: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, lower alkyl, or -CO-lower alkyl, with the proviso that R^1 and R^2 may together form dioxolane which may be substituted,

m: 0, 1 or 2,

R^3: H or lower alkyl,

R^{401} and R^{402}: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen, OH, -O-lower alkyl, or lower alkyl,

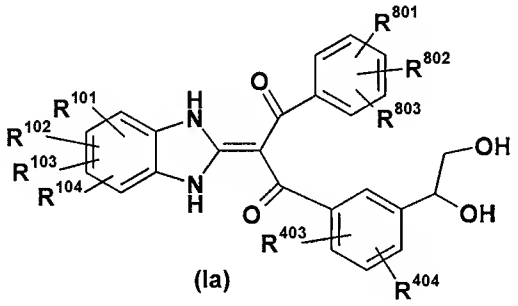
X: bond, lower alkylene which may be substituted, or cycloalkanediyl,

R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or -O-lower alkyl which may be substituted with ~~(aryl or heteroaryl)~~ (aryl or heteroaryl)].

2. (original) The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein ring A is benzene ring which may be substituted with halogen atom or lower alkyl, ring B is benzene ring, R^1 is H, R^2 is OH, R^3 is H, and X is lower alkylene which may be substituted.

3. (original) The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 2, wherein X is methylene which may be substituted.

4. (currently amended): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by a general formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(Ia)

(symbols in the formula mean as follows,

R^{801}, R^{802} and R^{803}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl,

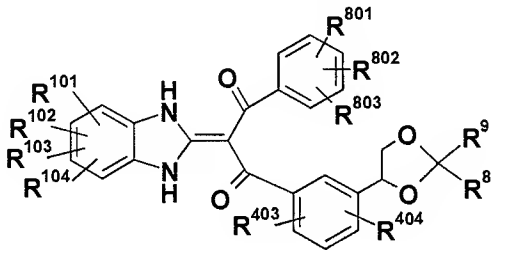
R^{403} and R^{404}: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl, and,

R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or -O-lower alkyl ~~lower alkyl~~ which may be substituted with ~~O-(aryl or heteroaryl)~~ (aryl or heteroaryl)).

5. (previously presented): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 4, which is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-(1,3-Dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-butyl-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[5-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]2-methylphenyl}propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(2-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(2,3,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(3-methylphenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-4-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-fluorophenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione.

6. (currently amended): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by a general formula (Ib) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(Ib)

(symbols in the formula mean as follows,

R^8 and R^9: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl or –O-lower alkyl,

R^{801}, R^{802} and R^{803}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl,

R^{403} and R^{404}: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl, and,

R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or -O-lower alkyl ~~lower alkyl~~ which may be substituted with ~~-O-(aryl or heteroaryl)~~(aryl or heteroaryl)).

7. (original) The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 6, wherein R^{801}, R^{802} and R^{803} may be the same or different from one another and each represents H or a halogen atom.

8. (previously presented): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 7, which is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-(1,3-Dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-[3-(2-methoxy-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)phenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-[3-(2-methoxy-2-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)phenyl]propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a propane—1,3—dione compound represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (original) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 9, which is a GnRH receptor antagonist.

11. (original) The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 10, which is the GnRH receptor antagonist for treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, endometriosis, uterine leiomyoma, or benign prostatic hypertrophy.